

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 57 and 60 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-56 (Cancelled).

Claim 57 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to information terminals and printers located in different places, through a network, the apparatus comprising:

5 user information storage means for storing user information regarding information terminals which are permitted to access the printing information distributing apparatus;

printing reservation information storage means for storing printing reservation information;

10 authenticating means for acquiring, when one of the information terminals accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network, identification information indicating a user of the one of the information

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15 terminals accessing the printing information distribution apparatus, and for performing authentication of the acquired identification information with reference to the user information storage means;

20 printing reservation means for [(I)] (ii) transmitting a printing reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing desired printing information to the information terminal, and for use in selection of a print medium by a user, when the authenticating means determines that the acquired identification information is stored in the user information storage means, (ii) receiving printing reservation information of 25 the desired printing information from said one of the information terminals, the printing reservation information including a name of the desired printing information, a printing medium type indicating a type of medium for printing, [and] a number of prints, and the print medium selected by and user, and (iii) 30 storing the received printing reservation information and the acquired identification information in the printing reservation information storage means, in association with the received printing reservation information and the acquired identification information;

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35 printer authenticating means for authenticating one of the printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network;

identification information fetching means for fetching identification information which indicates a user of the one of 40 the information terminals accessing the printing information distribution apparatus and is transmitted from said one of the printers through the network when the printer authenticating means authenticates said one of the printers;

printing information generating means for [(I)] (i) retrieving from the printing reservation information storage means the stored printing reservation information based on the identification information fetched by the identification information fetching means, (ii) reading the printing reservation information associated with the fetched identification 50 information from the printing reservation information storage means, and (iii) generating printing information based on the read printing reservation information; and

printing information transmitting means for transmitting, through the network, the printing information generated by the 55 printing information generating means to said one of the printers which accesses the printing information distribution apparatus,

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and causing said one of the printers to print out the desired printing information.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the printing information transmitting means transmits charge information indicating a printing charge for the printing 5 information to said one of the printers, and transmits the printing information to said one of the printers when the printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 58, wherein each of the printers includes money entry means for receiving each of predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints 5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing information transmitting means, when money is entered into the money entry means to pay for the charge indicated by the charge information.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to

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information terminals and printers located in different places,
through a network, the apparatus comprising:

5 a user information storage device which stores user
information regarding information terminals which are permitted
to access the printing information distributing apparatus;

 a printing reservation information storage device which
stores printing reservation information;

10 an authenticating device which acquires, when one of the
information terminals accesses the printing information
distributing apparatus through the network, identification
information indicating a user of the one of the information
terminals accessing the printing information distribution
apparatus, and performs authentication of the acquired
identification information with reference to the user information
storage device;

15 a printing reservation device which [(I)] (i) transmits a
printing reservation screen image for use in reservation for
printing desired printing information to the information
terminal, and for use in selection of a print medium by a user,
when the authenticating device determines that the acquired
identification information is stored in the user information
storage means, (ii) receives printing reservation information of

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25 the desired printing information from said one of the information terminals, the printing reservation information including a name of the desired printing information, a printing medium type indicating a type of medium for printing, [[and]] a number of prints, and the print medium selected by the user, and (iii)

30 stores the received printing reservation information and the acquired identification information in the printing reservation information storage device, in association with the received printing reservation information and the acquired identification information;

35 a printer authenticating device which authenticates one of the printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network;

an identification information fetching device which fetches identification information which indicates a user of the one of

40 the information terminals accessing the printing information distribution apparatus and is transmitted from said one of the printers through the network when the printer authenticating device authenticates said one of the printers;

a printing information generating device which (i) retrieves from the printing reservation information storage device the stored printing reservation information based on the

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identification information fetched by the identification information fetching device, (ii) reads the printing reservation information associated with the fetched identification 50 information from the printing reservation information storage device, and (iii) generates printing information based on the read printing reservation information; and a printing information transmitting device which transmits, through the network, the printing information generated by the 55 printing information generating device to said one of the printers which accesses the printing information distribution apparatus, and causes said one of the printers to print out the desired printing information.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the printing information transmitting device transmits charge information indicating a printing charge for the printing 5 information to said one of the printers, and transmits the printing information to said one of the printers when the printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

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Claim 62 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 61, wherein each of the printers includes a money entry device which receives each of predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints 5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing information transmitting device, when money is entered into the money entry device to pay for the charge indicated by the charge information.